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Writing in the new issue of The New York Review of Books, Professor Richard H. Popkin presents the first systematic theory suggesting how Oswald may have conspired with others to assassinate the President.

Professor Popkin, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, writes: "The evidence seems to me compelling that there was a second Oswald, that his presence was being forced on people's notice, and that he played a role on November 22, 1963."

Professor Popkin's article is based on evidence that appears in the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission Report, but was neglected by the Commission itself, as well as on new evidence that has appeared in recent weeks. He shows, for example, that on September 21, 1964, the Commission received a potentially significant report from the FBI concerning a man "similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald," but that "in the mad rush to publish" nothing was done by the Commission to follow up this report.

"One would have expected," he writes, "that if the Commission had really been interested in clearing up all of the questions and rumors about the case it would have stopped everything, located this man..., found out if he had been masquerading as Oswald, and, if so, why... The public should demand that the Commission or FBI tell us whether this turned out to be significant..."

Professor Popkin also points out that the Commission's theory that the President and Governor Connally of Texas were wounded by a single bullet passing through the President's neck is contradicted by two FBI reports recently published for the first time in Edward Jay Epstein's Inquest (Viking Press). The FBI reports, he points out, indicate that Kennedy was shot in the back, not the neck. But the Commission never examined photographs of the body taken during the autopsy in order to ascertain the truth.

"If Kennedy was shot in the back," he writes, "...then it seems unlikely that anything can redeem a one-assassin theory...the Commission's Report made no attempt to resolve the contradiction between the FBI reports and the autopsy. The question whether the FBI reports were accurate can only be answered if the photographs of the autopsy and the X-rays are made available for examination by responsible and independent observers, if not by the public at large. Since the Commission's theory of a single assassin depends heavily on this point, the photos and X-rays should be made available immediately."